IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus that performs image processing for generating image data to be used for printing by means of printing means, said apparatus comprising;

retaining means for retaining density correction data for each of a plurality of printing conditions between which density appears differently in the printing by means of the printing means, the printing conditions being conditions according to which the printing means performs printing;

judging means for judging the printing condition when performing image processing; and

density correction means for performing density correction on the image data using the density correction data corresponding to the printing condition judged by said judging means, among the density correction data retained by said retaining means.

2.   (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing conditions are kinds of images to be printed.

3.   (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing conditions are printing modes which are discriminated from a driving frequency of the printing means.

4.   (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing conditions are scanning directions in which the printing means performs scanning when performing printing.

5.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing means can form dots having different sizes and the printing conditions are printing conditions based on sizes of the dot, which [[the]] is formed in printing performed by the printing means can form with different sizes in accordance with the image data.

6.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing conditions are [[ink]] concentrations [[inks]] of ink of which the printing means can use as a plurality of inks having a different concentration to perform printing.

7.   (Original) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing means has a plurality of printing elements and the density correction data retained by said retaining means is retained for each of the plurality of printing elements in said printing means.

8.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing means has a plurality of printing elements and the density correction data retained by said retaining means is retained for each of rasters of the image

data, each of the rasters respectively corresponding to a predetermined number of printing elements among the plurality of printing elements in said printing means.

9.   (Original) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing means ejects ink to perform printing.

10.   (Original) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the printing means ejects ink using thermal energy.

11.   (Original) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said judging means judges the printing condition by simulating printing by said printing means.

12.   (Currently Amended) An image processing method that performs image processing for generating image data to be used for printing by means of printing means, said method comprising the steps of[[;]]:

preparing density correction data for each of a plurality of printing conditions between which density appears differently in the printing by means of the printing means, the printing conditions being conditions according to which the printing means performed printing;

judging the printing condition when performing image processing; and

performing density correction on the image data using the density correction data corresponding to the printing condition judged [[by]] in said judging step, among the density correction data prepared [[by]] in said preparing step.

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13. (Withdrawn) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the printing conditions are kinds of images to be printed.

14. (Withdrawn) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the printing conditions are printing modes which are discriminated from a driving frequency of the printing means.

15. (Withdrawn) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the printing conditions are scanning directions in which the printing means performs scanning when performing printing.

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the printing means can form dots having different sizes, and the printing conditions are printing conditions based on sizes of the dot, which [[the]] is formed in printing performed by the printing means can form with different sizes in accordance with the image data.

17. (Currently Amended) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the printing conditions are [[ink]] concentrations [[inks]] of ink of which the printing means can use as a plurality of inks having a different concentration to perform printing.

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the printing means has a plurality of printing elements and the density

correction data prepared [[by]] in said preparing step is prepared for each of the plurality of printing elements in [[said]] the printing means.

19.   (Currently Amended) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the printing means has a plurality of printing elements and the density correction data prepared [[by]] in said preparing step is prepared for each of rasters of the image data, each of the rasters respectively corresponding to a predetermined number of printing elements among the plurality of printing elements in [[said]] the printing means.

20.   (Original) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the printing means ejects ink to perform printing.

21.   (Original) An image processing method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the printing means ejects ink using thermal energy.

22.   (Currently Amended) An image processing method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said judging step judges the printing condition by simulating printing by [[said]] the printing means.